

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6463

S E C R E T ABIDJAN 0046

NODIS

FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFEELE

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, US, IV

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN USHER

REF: ABIDJAN 0014

1. AFTER LUNCH TODAY FONMIN USHER AND I HAD FURTHER CONVERSATION ABOUT ANGOLA. HE REITERATED POSITION THAT MILITARY BALANCE MUST BE MAINTAINED EVEN IF THAT MEANS THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS STAY ON.

2. USHER SAID ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR HAD VISITED HIM THIS MORNING AND STATED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION WAS THE CORE OF THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM, IMPLYING THAT IVORY COAST SUPPORTS SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION. USHER SAID HE TOLD HIM THAT GOIC SUPPORTS NO INTERVENTION AND CANNOT ADOPT A POSITION WHICH SINGLES OUT ONE INTERVENER OR ANOTHER. ALL SHOULD GET OUT.

3. ALGERIAN THEN CLAIMED THAT MPLA LEADERS WERE NOT COMMUNIST AND ANGOLA WOULD NOT BECOME A COMMUNIST STATE. USHER SAID HE REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT ANGOLA TO BE A COMMUNIST STATE EVENTUALLY BUT BY THE TIME THAT HAPPENS THE EFFECTS OF SOVIET INFLUENCE WILL HAVE ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT DEAL OF "BAD". I SAID THAT THIS ARGUMENT OF PRO-MPLA COUNTRIES CAN BE EX-

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PECTED TO ASSUME GREATER IMPORTANCE AND SHOULD BE COUNTERED

SHARPLY AND QUICKLY.

4. USHER SAID HE DID NOT HAVE INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT YET BUT EXPECTED THEY WOULD BE FIRM. HE ASKED ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES I HAD VISITED AND I GAVE HIM A RUN-DOWN OF MY IMPRESSIONS AS WELL AS NAMING THE OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH I THOUGHT COULD BE COUNTED ON TO SUPPORT POSITION ADOPTED BY IVORY COAST.

5. DRAWING ON MY PAST OBSERVATIONS OF OAU MEETINGS, I REPEATED AHIDJO'S INJUNCTION THAT MODERATES MUST HOLD ON UNTIL THE END. INSTEAD OF LETTING THE ALGERIANS AND GUINEANS PRESS THE ARGUMENT THAT THE MODERATE POSITION THREATENED THE UNITY OF THE OAU, THE MODERATES SHOULD AGGRESSIVELY POINT OUT THAT IT IS THE OTHER SIDE, UNWILLING TO COMPROMISE, WHICH THREATENS OAU UNITY. USHER AGREED.

6. AT CONCLUSION USHER SAID AGAIN HE EXPECTED TO GO TO ADDIS ARMED WITH FIRM INSTRUCTIONS. GOIC WOULD CERTAINLY PUSH HARD FOR NONDISCRIMINATORY RESOLUTION ON THE FOREIGN INTERVENTION ISSUE. ON LEAVING, I ONCE MORE ASSURED HIM OF U.S. DETERMINATION TO REMAIN INVOLVED.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTERVENTION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-A
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ABIDJA00046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840086-1826
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760191/aaaadcro.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 ABIDJAN 14
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <12 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANGOLA: FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN USHER
TAGS: PFOR, PEPR, AO, US, IV, SA, MPLA, OAU, (USHER, ARSENE), (SCHAUFELE, WILLIAM E)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006